

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 292228

USEEC FOR EC BRUSSELS, ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, AORG, FR

SUBJECT: UN RESTRUCTURING: FRENCH CONSULTATIONS

REFS: (A) USUN 5061; (B) USUN 5166; (C) USUN 3111;
(D) USUN 5113; (E) STATE 288355

1. COUNSELOR BERNARD BOYER OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY CALLED
ON THE UN ECONOMIC/SOCIAL RESTRUCTURING ACTION OFFICER (FOX)
TUESDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 6. BOYER REQUESTED CLARIFICA-
TION REGARDING AN AIDE MEMOIRE RECEIVED BY THE QUAI FROM
THE U.S. EMBASSY IN PARIS, INCLUDING THE TEXT OF THE USDEL
STATEMENT ON THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ISSUE MADE IN THE NOVEM-
BER 28 MEETING OF THE RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE CONTACT
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GROUP (PARA. 7, REFTEL A).

2. BOYER'S FIRST INTEREST WAS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE
USDEL STATEMENT WAS BASED ON ORAL COMMENTS BY THE G-77
SPOKESMAN (JAMAICA) OR ON THE NEW TEXT PRESENTED BY THE
G-77 SPOKESMAN IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY (REFTEL B). HE
WAS TOLD THAT THE NEW JAMAICAN TEXT POST-DATED THE USDEL

STATEMENT WHICH WAS MADE FOLLOWING ORAL COMMENTS OF THE G-77 SPOKESMAN IN THE CONTACT GROUP.

3. NOTING USDEL'S QUOTE SATISFACTION UNQUOTE WITH THE JAMAICAN'S CLARIFICATION, BOYER'S BASIC INTEREST WAS IN LEARNING THE U.S. VIEW OF HOW THE NEW POSITION QUOTE WOULD WORK. UNQUOTE. HE WAS TOLD THAT, AS INDICATED IN THE U.S. NON-PAPER GIVEN TO THE FRENCH MISSION SEPTEMBER 15 (REFTEL C), WE SEE THE NEW POSITION AS PERFORMING FUNCTIONS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES NOT BEING FILLED ADEQUATELY NOW; THAT THE ACTUAL DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD BE DEPENDENT ON THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE SYG AND WHOEVER IS PLACED IN THE NEW POSITION.

4. BOYER CONFIRMED THAT THE BELGIAN TEXT (REFTEL D) IS BASICALLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE FRENCH, ALTHOUGH THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEY LIKE IT AND IT IS AS FAR AS THEY CAN GO. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, HE EXPLAINED THE DISTINCTIONS SEEN BY FRANCE BETWEEN THE JAMAICAN TEXT AND THE BELGIAN TEXT. THEY BELIEVE THE BELGIAN TEXT IS MUCH MORE SPECIFIC AND QUOTE RESTRICTED UNQUOTE THAN THE JAMAICAN TEXT WHICH COULD BE INTERPRETED TO ALLOW A MUCH BROADER MANDATE FOR THE NEW POSITION. HE REPEATED THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WITH THE JAMAICAN TEXT THAT HE EXPRESSED LAST FRIDAY (REFTEL E),
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EMPHASIZING THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF THE TITLE QUOTE DIRECTOR GENERAL UNQUOTE AND THE FRENCH CONCERN THAT THE NEW POSITION WOULD BE EMPOWERED TO QUOTE DIRECT, OVERSEE AND COORDINATE UNQUOTE ACTIVITIES IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS. HE WAS REMINDED THAT THE AUTHORITY TO QUOTE DIRECT, OVERSEE AND COORDINATE UNQUOTE WAS ASCRIBED TO THE SYG IN THE JAMAICAN TEXT RATHER THAN DIRECTLY TO THE PROPOSED DIRECTOR GENERAL. BOYER INITIALLY AGREED THAT THE JAMAICAN TEXT REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT IMPROVEMENT COMPARED TO THE ORIGINAL G-77 TEXT, BUT THEN HE CORRECTED HIMSELF TO REPEAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS FOR LAST FRIDAY THAT THE JAMAICAN TEXT IS UNACCEPTABLE AND TO EXPLAIN THAT THE QUAI CONSIDERS THE NEW TEXT JUST A QUOTE MORE SKILLFUL PRESENTATION UNQUOTE OF THE G-77 VIEWPOINT.

5. DISCUSSION CLOSED WITH BOYER'S AGREEMENT THAT CONSULTATIONS ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BE MORE USEFUL BETWEEN OUR TWO MISSIONS IN NEW YORK RATHER THAN IN WASHINGTON DUE TO THE FAST MOVING PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT USUN LEARNED OF THE FRENCH REACTION TO THE JAMAICAN TEXT ONLY BY WAY OF A REPORTING TELEGRAM FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON HIS CONSULTATIONS OF LAST FRIDAY. CHRISTOPHER

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